AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** Composite detergent particles prepared by dry-blending in a weight ratio of detergent additive particles (a)/detergent particles (b) of 20/80 to 35/65:

detergent additive particles (a) comprising 30 to 100% by weight of two or more kinds of water-soluble substances wherein a molar ratio of other one or more kinds of water-soluble substances to one kind of water-soluble substance is 7/3 or less, wherein the water-soluble substances comprise a water-soluble polymer and an inorganic water-soluble salt that is an alkali metal salt, ammonium salt or amine salts, each having a carbonate group, a sulfate group or a sulfite group, and further optionally comprising ~~less than 6% by weight of a surfactant and/or~~ 70% by weight or less of a water-insoluble substance, wherein the detergent additive particles contain substantially no surfactant, the detergent additive particles having an average particle size of from 150 to 600 μm, a bulk density of 300 to 1000 g/L, and wherein the detergent additive particles have a dissolution rate of 90% or more, under conditions where the detergent additive particles are supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 60 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the detergent additive particles are supplied to a 1-L beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm, which is charged with 1-L of hard water containing 71.2 mg $CaCO_3$/L, and a molar ratio of Ca/Mg of 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar having a length of 35 mm, and a diameter of 8 mm at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution rate of the detergent additive particles is calculated by Equation (1):

Dissolution Rate (%) = {1 – (T/S)} x 100 (1)

wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent additive particles supplied; and T is a dry weight of insoluble remnants of the detergent additive particles remaining on the sieve when an aqueous solution prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered with the sieve; and

detergent particles (b) having an average particle size of from 150 to 600 μm and a bulk density of 500 to 1000 g/L, and comprising 10 to 50% by weight of a surfactant.

2. (Original) The composite detergent particles according to claim 1, wherein the detergent additive particles (a) have a microporous capacity of 0.2 mL/g or more and 1.2 mL/g or less at 0.01 to 4 μm as determined by mercury porosimetry.

3. (Previously Presented) The composite detergent particles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the detergent additive particles (a) comprise a particle capable of releasing a bubble of a size of 1/10 or more of the particle size from an inner portion of the particle, when dissolving the particle in water.

4. (Previously Presented) The composite detergent particles according to claim 1, wherein the detergent additive particles (a) comprise a particle having a structure that there exists a hollow in an inner portion thereof, and that a particle surface is opened and communicated with the hollow in the inner portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The composite detergent particles according to claim 1, wherein the detergent additive particles (a) comprise a particle having a localized structure such that a composition in its inner portion is different from that near its surface.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The composite detergent particles according to claim 1, wherein the detergent additive particles (a) are obtainable by a step of spray-drying an aqueous solution or suspension which comprises a water-soluble substance, and further optionally comprises ~~a surfactant and/or~~ a water-insoluble substance.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A granular detergent composition comprising 50 to 100% by weight of the composite detergent particles of claim 1.

9 - 15. (Cancelled)

16. **(Currently Amended)** Composite detergent particles according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant in the detergent particles (b) is selected from the group consisting of linear alkylbenzenesulfonates of which alkyl moiety has 10 to 14 carbon atoms, alkyl sulfates or alkyl

ether sulfates of which each alkyl moiety has 10 to 18 carbon atoms and polyoxyalkylene alkyl ethers.

17-18. (Cancelled)